

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1. – 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A cleansing method, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a cleansing processing agent in a solid state which is non-water soluble and comprises:

a high molecular material having [[an]] 20 to 50 mol % of acrylonitrile unit and 50 to 80 mol % of at least one of styrene and conjugate diene as constituent unit and into which are introduced ionic groups,

wherein,

said ionic groups include carboxylic acid groups and at least one selected from the group consisting of, hydroxy groups, --PO(OH)₂ groups, --CH₂PO(OH)₃ groups, --NO₂ groups or salts thereof, a unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene, and a combination thereof, and the molecular weight of said high molecular material being greater than about 1,000 and less than about 20,000,000, wherein, ——— hydrophilic groups are introduced into said high molecular material by adding an acid or an alkali thereto, ionic groups are introduced into said high molecular material, such that said high molecular material comprises more than about 5 mol% and less than about 95 mol% of said ionic groups, said high molecular material comprises 20 to 95 mol% of said unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene and a combination thereof,

(b) contacting said agent with a material to be cleaned, the material to be cleaned containing at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and amine compound; and

(c) absorbing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and an amine compound from the material to be cleaned, thereby forming a solid content containing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and an amine compound.

43. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is effluent water or an exhaust gas that is passed through a column charged with the cleansing processing agent.

44. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the cleansing processing agent is dispersed into effluent water.

45. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is a solid material.

46. (Currently Amended) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the cleansing processing agent is sprayed onto the material to be cleaned.

47. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is soil in a landfill.

48. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is odor-emitting material.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the high molecular material is at least one selected from the group consisting of an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin (ABS), a styrene-acrylonitrile resin (SAN), and an acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (ABR).

51. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the acid is sulfuric acid.

52. - 54. (Cancelled)

55. (New) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the high molecular material contains a pigment.

56. (New) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the high molecular material is obtained by processing resin with an acid and/or an alkali.

57. (New) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the polymer is mixed into a starting material composed at least of wood, plastics, paper, glass and metal, and molded the resulting mixture.